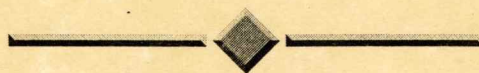


CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 1997-98



CAMPUS MINISTRY IS A UNIT OF *Advocacy & Support Services* **STUDENT SERVICES**

ANNUAL REPORT 1997-98

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ANNUAL REPORT 1997-98

INTRODUCTION

A number of "fields" which Campus Ministry has been cultivating for many years bore fruit this year, most especially in the area of creating a truly multi-faith ministry. This has been exciting and rewarding, as we have made new contacts with people of a number of different faith traditions both within the university and in the wider community.

Another area of significant focus for us in Campus Ministry has been the concern of student poverty. On top of the more usual social and personal events which create emergency situations for students, the devastation caused by the January ice storm resulted in severe financial, as well as physical and emotional stress. Along with other student services, we also struggled to respond to the severe hardships which arose from "The Storm of the Century," and succeeded in helping a large number of students and, in some cases their children, survive this disaster. We participated in providing emergency response to student needs by giving out food vouchers and distributing food provided by the Red Cross. The repercussions of this storm were felt by students through the end of the academic year, and continue to have an impact on our Emergency Food Voucher Fund.

There were some new initiatives as well, such as publishing our newsletter, "First Word." We produced one fall and one winter issue, and see this as a worthwhile investment of our personal and financial resources. We also began some new small group programs.

On the whole, this was a year of some real achievements, bringing projects to fruition, and good collaboration with other services and groups.

GOALS

Our goals for the 1997-98 year were:

- a) To build on past work in the area of multi-faith ministry, and create a network of religious leaders and teachers from a variety of traditions;
- b) To continue and further develop work we are doing to alleviate the problem of student poverty;
- c) To increase the name recognition, visibility and outreach of Campus Ministry;
- d) To create more welcoming office environments, especially at SGW, Annex Z, and to continue maximizing the use of both campuses
- e) To increase student involvement in all aspects of Campus Ministry, including revitalizing the Chapel Community.

RESOURCES**Staff**

Campus Ministry has three full-time Chaplains staffing offices on the Loyola and Sir George Williams campuses. In addition, we have two part-time Chaplains, one who is hired on a shared funding arrangement between Concordia University and the Montreal Catholic Archdiocese, and another whose salary is paid by the Pillars Trust Fund of the Montreal Catholic Archdiocese. We are a team of women and men, lay and ordained, Catholic and Protestant, working in a multi-faith manner. All Chaplains take appointments at both campuses.

Full-time

Rev. Matti Terho

Mr. Peter Côté

Ms. Daryl Lynn Ross (Coordinator)

Part-time

David Eley, S.J. (Loyola)

Sr. Michelina Bertone (SGW)

Matti has accepted the early retirement package which was offered by the university, and will retire at the end of this academic year. He has been with Campus Ministry for twenty-seven years working predominantly on the SGW campus, and he will be sorely missed. Finding ways and means to continue offering as many as possible of the variety of services Matti has provided will be a major concern this coming year.

Support staff are essential for maintaining student-friendly spaces as well as for publicizing and carrying out programs and services. Bernard Glover, as full-time secretary, has responsibilities including document production and processing, communications, desktop publishing, media interface and computer maintenance. Magda Jass, the Chapel Sacristan is involved in overseeing the use of the Loyola Chapel for regular Campus Ministry services as well as for use by other persons and groups.

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

Annex Z - Sir George Williams Campus: This is a heavily used office space, for appointments, drop-ins, programs and special events. As we have no support staff downtown, if a Chaplain is involved in work out of the office, or in speaking with a student in an office, it has been sometimes difficult to deal with unscheduled visits from students. There are a considerable number of drop-ins, and therefore we have made efforts to solve this problem. More careful coordination of schedules, the scheduling of all full-time Chaplains for office hours at Annex Z, the prioritizing of providing drop-in service, the posting of office hours and the presence of Peer Helpers in the lower level office have all been aimed at addressing this concern. In addition, we have decided to hire a student for twelve to fifteen hours each week to provide reception at Annex Z in the coming year. If possible, this student will be one of the Peer Helpers.

The gathering space in the lounge at Annex Z, although not very large, can comfortably seat about twenty people. Behind this lounge is another room, with a sink, refrigerator, cabinets and a large round table and chairs. Having this space available, which many students have said is one of the few "homey" feeling places on campus, has enabled Campus Ministry to offer a wide variety of programs. It is an excellent space to offer small group discussions and workshops. Small groups are optimum learning environments, especially for human development learning, as they provide close contact with the leader as well as exchange with peers. Annex Z is one of a small number of places on the downtown campus which has space amenable to such groups. We have quite a few requests from other services and from student associations to make use of this space, and we try to accommodate these requests as much as we can. The lounges were the venue for our very popular Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, which offered weekly dinners for a small donation. The tables, sink, cupboards and kitchen-type set-up made this program possible.

We continue to provide space at Annex Z for the Muslim Students' Association to have a prayer room.

Belmore House (Annex WF) - Loyola Campus: This Annex is the primary work centre for Campus Ministry, because the secretary's office is located here, as well as offices for three of the four Concordia Chaplains. The Annex has office spaces and a small meeting room on the first floor, and a large lounge including a complete kitchen in the basement.

The Loyola Campus Ministry office has provided an excellent venue for training and ongoing general meetings of the Peer Helper Program. This group of about twenty-five students who provide volunteer service at Concordia meets for over forty-five hours of initial training at the end of the summer and the beginning of the fall semester, and continues with bi-weekly meetings throughout the regular academic year. The Peer Helpers also use the space for meal preparations for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard dinners, to help enforce strict sanitation standards during food preparation.

The Loyola Campus provides an excellent venue for the meals which the Loyola Chapel community hosts for International students, as well as regular gatherings of the Loyola Chapel community, meetings of the Concordia Christian Fellowship and other student associations, pot-luck suppers, regular meditation, weekly and occasional small group meetings and other events. The Loyola Campus Ministry office also provides supervision and coordination of the use of the Loyola Chapel. Concordia community members who are arranging for an event at the Chapel, such as a wedding, have meetings and bring their paperwork to this office.

We have a considerable number of drop-ins on this campus as well, and when the lounge is not being used for a program, there are students who like to use it as a quiet and comfortable place to study. We have been told by students that the Campus Ministry office on Loyola, as well, is one of the few "homey" feeling spaces on that campus.

Over the past number of years the concentration of students has moved increasingly to the Sir George Williams campus. This has made organizing group programs very difficult at the Loyola Campus. We have submitted recommendations to the Task Force for the Revitalization of the

Loyola Campus, and we hope that these, along with others' recommendations, will result in the Loyola Campus returning to a more vibrant state.

The Loyola Chapel:. The Chapel is the gathering place for an active Chapel Community and is a place of many celebrations and ceremonies which mark significant passages in the lives of members of Concordia and of the community as a whole. It is a focal point for alumni, who frequently return to the Loyola Chapel for Sunday masses; some are even part of the regular Chapel community, and many return to the Chapel for weddings, anniversaries, funerals and baptisms.

The Loyola Chapel is a significant place for Concordia University as an entire community; at a time when so many of our long-term faculty and staff are taking retirement or early retirement packages and are leaving active involvement in university life, and it feels as if we are losing the holders of our "institutional memory" it is important to safeguard the meaningful traditions and places which remain.

In addition to being a place which holds many memories for university members, the Chapel is an oasis on campus for quiet, contemplation and stillness. Very frequently, when one of the Chaplains or the Sacristan goes into the Chapel, there are one or more people just sitting quietly in this peaceful, sacred space. The Chapel is accessible through the administration building at all times. It is locked after 11:00 p.m., but will be opened by a security guard upon request.

Following the ice storm, leaks from the roof have resulted in serious damage being done to the ceilings in the Sacristy and other rooms on the periphery of the Chapel. These are still awaiting repair. Other maintenance work also needs attention, and we hope that sufficient money will be spent to prevent this Loyola Chapel, as well as the other beautiful Loyola buildings, from falling into a state of disrepair.

ICE STORM RESPONSE

The impact of the enormous January storm was very hard-hitting. The timing also added to the difficulty; students and faculty had just returned from their holidays when the university had to close for two weeks. Many students had to seek lodging with friends and family or in public shelters, and some lost all their food supplies for the weeks to come.

Consequently, the demand on the food voucher program was simply overwhelming, especially since it was offered by the university as one of the emergency responses to the ice storm. Several days after classes resumed the Canadian Red Cross requested our help (as well as that of the McGill chaplains and the director of the Metropolitan Montreal Student Food Bank) to distribute fresh food to about 100 needy students. Following these activities, the rate of increase in the number of students coming for aid has been greater than ever before. This has put pressure on the staff as well as on the resources of the Emergency Food Voucher Fund itself. (Please refer to the section on Spirit of Christmas Drive/Food Voucher Fund for specifics.)

When a student comes in for food vouchers, the Chaplain who is attending to him or her often spends time discussing other difficulties or stresses in the person's life. In the aftermath of the

ice storm, in addition to the many students who came for food vouchers, a number of students also came in to our offices just to talk about these stresses. At the time, we did not think of counting the hours, because the need was very real and also, in many cases, urgent. In retrospect, the number of hours given by all our staff, as well as the intensity of that effort, was quite taxing.

It is important to remark that the various units of Advocacy and Support Services, and all the departments of Student Services as a whole, pulled together admirably to put the needs and well-being of the students as the top priority in getting through the crisis.

MULTI-FAITH NETWORK FORMATION

As the population of Concordia has gradually become more diverse, Campus Ministry has welcomed the challenge and opportunity to serve the variety of religious and spiritual needs of our university community, while we also provide opportunities for people to come together to affirm the many common values and interests which we share as people of faith. For many years we have worked collaboratively with an informal network of ministers, rabbis, elders, teachers and leaders from a variety of religious traditions. This year we took important steps to broaden the **Multi-faith Network**, and formalize the links we have. In February we held a meeting (originally scheduled during the ice storm) which included twenty-two people from the following faith traditions: Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jewish, Moslem, Bahà'i, Native Spirituality, Christian and Unitarian. The meeting was an opportunity for all to meet one another, and to discuss the implications of working in a multi-faith manner, as well as approaches for doing so in a way which was comfortable for everyone.

Following this meeting, we set up a **multi-faith internet news group** so that we can post a variety of events and activities which might interest students of different religions. We are also in the process of producing a brochure naming the colleagues in our multi-faith network, so that we can more effectively refer students who have a particular spiritual or religious need.

After many years of recognizing that a **Multi-faith Convocation Service** would be a good and appropriate offering from Campus Ministry, this year we finally pulled it together, with the assistance of a number of gracious participants from several traditions. It was a beautiful, moving ceremony, which included a Native sage purification ceremony, readings and prayers from the Unitarian, Jewish, Islamic, Christian and Bahà'i traditions, a Hindu dancer, meditation with a Buddhist monk, and a shared blessing, followed by a reception. The main area of the Chapel was filled to capacity, primarily with graduating students and family members, as well as a number of faculty and Chapel community.

Future plans include: another **Multi-faith Festival** this autumn; panel discussions on a variety of topics by students from different traditions; greater collaboration among network members to respond to particular needs of students.

These developments are, we feel, very significant, and we believe we are accomplishing important and pioneering work in the area of Multi-faith Ministry.

PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND EVENTS

It is largely through the variety of offerings outlined below that we reach out to the members of the Concordia University Community to educate, foster personal and spiritual growth, create community, offer support and guidance through life's transitions and provide opportunities to lend a compassionate hand to the needy. We put considerable creativity and loving energy into these programs, services and events, and we believe they are responsive to the expressed needs of students, and other Concordia members.

Workshops and Small Groups

Prison Visit Program

This long-standing outreach program continues to be very popular and beneficial to the student participants. It is one which we consciously maintain at a maximum attendance of 10 to 12 student volunteers each semester. For the 97-98 school year Peter Côté and Matti Terho have continued at the Federal Training Centre in cooperation with the Prison Chaplain, David Schantz. Each year this program has a powerful, indeed life-changing impact on some of the students. Students come from all four of the faculties, but representation from within the so-called "helping profession" departments is the strongest, i.e. Sociology, Psychology, and Applied Human Sciences. For these students in particular it becomes an important part of their educational experience, as they make choices about their direction in life.

The past school year was a very successful one for the Prison Visit Program. The group was more or less optimum size and the visitors were conscientious and positive in their approach. The group of inmates attended regularly, and all seemed to enjoy the meetings throughout the program.

Mindfulness Meditation

Two groups were held regularly by Daryl Ross, the group at Annex Z continuing for its fifth year, the group at Annex WF for a third. Both were held during the week, in the daytime. The SGW group fluctuated from about eight to twenty participants, the group at Loyola was consistently about four or five. A number of participants gave feedback that learning meditation has been very helpful in many aspects of their academic and personal lives.

Daryl is looking into the possibility of making the group at SGW more accessible to staff and faculty, by finding a larger and more centralized venue. A number of staff persons participated regularly in the program last year and expressed much appreciation for this opportunity to bring spirituality into the workplace.

Outreach Experience (Volunteer/Discernment Program)

This program, now in its fourth year, is coordinated by Michelina Bertone, SSA. Students seeking to do volunteer work in the community are matched with organizations needing the skills

and energies these students bring. Every effort is made to find a placement which will be suitable to the student in terms of his/her interests and availability. Follow-up meetings are scheduled between the coordinator and the student following a set number of weeks of volunteer work. Links are made during these meetings with the student's career goals, and also with his/her ethical and spiritual life. The students meet as a group twice a year to share their experiences with one another and engage in shared ritual (prayer). About forty students have participated each year previously, but only about twenty took part this year. It seems necessary to begin the publicity for this program earlier than we did this past year.

Bible Reading Group

A small group of people met on Wednesday afternoons during both semesters to read and study the Bible. David Eley led this group, and they proceeded with one chapter of the Gospel according to St. Mark per week. His evaluation was that the exchange was of a high quality but the small number of participants leads us to question the publicity for and finally, the time efficiency of this activity.

Book Discussion Group – "The Good Heart"

This new initiative, facilitated by Daryl Ross, brought together faculty and students to reflect on a text by the Dalai Lama, "The Good Heart: A Buddhist Perspective on the Teachings of Jesus. Discussion included the Buddhist and Christian traditions, and personal experiences. A very high level of exchange provided much food for thought as well as spiritual nourishment, and marked this as a program worthy of repetition. Several members of the groups have continued to meet through the summer, viewing and discussing videotaped lectures by the Dalai Lama. The group will continue on the theme of Buddhist Christian dialogue.

Focusing Workshop

This series of workshops, facilitated by Michelina Bertone SSA, taught the approximately fifteen participants how to "listen" to their bodies. Focusing is a particular technique which helps the practitioner to work through issues which may be hindering his/her relationships or personal development. It also enables one to stay more self-attuned. It is a spiritual practice which does not have a particular doctrine, other than the essential one of valuing and caring for oneself.

The Eight Stages of Life of Erik Erikson

In these workshops the work of Erikson in stages of human and spiritual development was explored by a group of about ten students, making applications to their own personal, moral and spiritual lives.

Events

Eric O'Connor Event – "Gay and Lesbian Spirituality and the Christian Churches"

The Eric O'Connor event was held in March this year, a bit later than it is usually, to accommodate the delays created by the ice storm. The gathering dealt with issues of Gay and Lesbian Spirituality and the Christian Churches. The event offered a varied program of film screenings, dramatic readings, a public lecture, a panel discussion and public participation. The evaluations were very positive and there were several suggestions that we should have other events along the same line. We believe this topic is of interest to many students as well as the wider community. Our only disappointment with the event was that of the 60 - 75 people in attendance, there were perhaps a dozen students.

Retreat at Oka Monastery

A group of twenty-two, mostly students with a few faculty and external participants, attended a retreat at Oka Monastery on February 20-22. This annual event brings a diverse group, spanning the spectrum of those with a developed religious life to the respectfully curious, to live in close proximity to a cloistered community of contemplative monks. It was an excellent retreat weekend, and we were gratified that there was strong interest in the retreat - more, in fact, than we were able to accommodate. We will try to create more space in this coming year.

Services

Spirit of Christmas Drive/ Emergency Food Voucher Program

The most significant factor to impact on the Emergency Food Voucher program during 1997-98 was the ice storm which hit our region beginning on January 5. Although the University was effectively closed for almost two weeks we distributed \$3,965. in vouchers during January, with 76 student visits, almost all coming on and after Jan. 19 when classes resumed.

January marked the beginning of a tremendous increase in demand which reached its peak in March when we distributed \$4,630. with 117 student visits.

The total amount distributed during 1997-98 reached an all-time high of \$23,825., with 539 student visits for the year. To understand how surprising this was for us, and how it strained our abilities, one need only look back to the statistics for the previous year. During 1996-97 we handed out \$13,210. in vouchers to 365 student visitors. That was itself a record breaking year.

From June to December 1997 the demand was largely on a par with last year, with moderate increases in each month. Beginning in January the stats hit and broke through the roof with monthly outlays as much as quadrupling. The average given per student visit also increased significantly, from \$36.19 in 1996-97 to \$44.20 this year. Many students were seriously affected by the ice storm and we found it necessary to increase the amounts given in many cases to deal with the losses they had experienced. As well, many of these students, on very tight budgets, got

themselves into financial holes from which they found it impossible to extricate themselves as a result of the ice storm, and because of other factors as well.

We are increasingly seeing students who are returning to school with no viable means of support, no plan in place, no guaranteed source of funding, and no expectation that one can be found. In some cases students in mid-program find themselves in this situation after having lost their means of support. These students are struggling to fulfill a dream under the most stressful of circumstances. In many cases they are single parents eager to find a way out of dependency and poverty; or international students with none of the traditional supports or avenues open to them.

The ice storm brought a whole new dimension to this situation beginning in January. As part of its response to the ice storm and its effect on students the University distributed to all students at Concordia a list of resources and special responses to this disaster. Among these was the availability of food vouchers through Campus Ministry. This served to bring this service to the attention of students specifically affected by the ice storm, but also to make the program much more widely known in general. As a result, demand shot up dramatically, and remained at a very high level through April.

Our normal fund raising could not possibly have met this demand, and, in fact, we find ourselves with a negative balance of \$3,175.15 at the end of the fiscal year: May 31st 1998. This is compared with a positive balance of \$9,207.30 at the same time last year which was carried forward into the new fiscal year.

Fund raising from our normal sources amounted to \$12,174.30 for the fiscal year. This is on par with recent years, but will obviously have to increase if we are to maintain this program. We have been promised a grant from the Ice Storm Emergency Fund set up by the Board of Governors, and we are awaiting the transfer of a large donation from one of our alumni supporters. These together should put us back into a more comfortable position leading up to our fund raising in the fall.

We have also begun discussions to explore the possibility of having regular donations received through Annual Giving. This would serve to regularize a funding base, and would allow us to continue with the internal fund raising events during our Spirit of Christmas fund raising period.

We expect the demand to trail off somewhat during the coming year, but it will almost certainly remain high for the foreseeable future.

The Mother Hubbard's Cupboard program is also partially funded through our Spirit of Christmas Fund. This support amounted to \$676.75 during the fiscal year: \$306.75 in equipment purchases, and \$370. in voucher support for the meals.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

This program, coordinated by Daryl Ross, implemented through the efforts of Peer Helpers and other student volunteers, serves weekly meals to students at Annex Z for a donation of \$1.00. Costs were subsidized by the Emergency Food Voucher Fund. The meals were prepared at the

Loyola Campus Ministry office by student volunteers, the preparation was supervised and meals were transported by Daryl Ross. About fifty to eighty students were served each week, from mid-September to late April, with the attendance peaking for a few weeks at ninety to one hundred. The meals were vegetarian, and inexpensive to prepare. Students were given copies of the recipes, so they could learn new skills in preparing nutritious meals on a small budget. The atmosphere at "Mother Hubbard's" was warm and friendly; many of the students who came were from out of province or from other countries, and came to meet people as well as enjoy a meal. The feedback from students who participated was extremely positive, and many came because of word-of-mouth publicity; that is a sure sign that a program is responding to the real needs of students.

As we have planned for the past two years, we expanded Mother Hubbard's by creating a cooperative cooking group. We were mentored in this program by some volunteers from the Unitarian Church of Montreal. We were also permitted to use their excellent new kitchen facilities for the cooking. This pilot project group of 6 to 8 students met three times over the year to cook together. Scheduling the cooking is the major problem with students' diverse schedules. This is a project that will be expanded in the coming year.

Metropolitan Montreal Student Food Bank

Matti Terho has been working with other students and Chaplains from several universities to establish a city-wide student food bank, and has found it a somewhat frustrating project. It seemed to get started reasonably well with active participation by both the Concordia Graduate Student Association President and one of the Vice Presidents of the Concordia Student Union. However, it seemed that both got so completely wrapped up in their political and social activities that they were unable to dedicate any energy or time to this project. The food bank did get solid support at Hautes Etudes Commerciales (and some space for an outlet) and the media showed some interest with articles and interviews. But for committee work, very few people were able to attend meetings with any kind of regularity. With the new CSU president apparently strongly in favor of the MMSFB we hope that the coming year will see a better functioning organization.

Pastoral Counselling and Spiritual Direction

Concordia provides an excellent network of services, and therefore students have choices about the means to find guidance and support when they feel a need to seek it. Short-term pastoral counselling and spiritual direction offered by chaplains have helped many students to respond to life choices and emotional issues constructively and with integrity. The chaplains provide spiritual guidance and development to other members of the University community as well. Chaplains also provide many referrals to other university services. As was mentioned previously, this year the percentage of time spent by Chaplains doing pastoral counselling increased roughly 25% as one of the effects of the ice storm.

Gatherings for celebration, commemoration and worship

Chaplains were involved in preparing for and presiding at ceremonies such as convocations, weddings, anniversaries, funeral/memorial services. Many people turn to religious leaders when they are looking for meaningful ways to mark significant passages in life. Sacramental celebrations such as weddings and baptisms necessarily involve one of the ordained chaplains. Twenty-seven members of the Concordia community had children baptized in the Chapel this year. Other gatherings such as memorial services are also led by the lay chaplains. Most notably this year, the sad occasion of the funeral for Nancy Torbit, former Director of Concordia Health Services, brought several hundred persons in attendance from all parts of the University.

Matti Terho, the Coordinator for the Institutional Response to Student Deaths had to deal with ten deaths of students or former students, of which two demanded considerable effort. One of these involved pastoral counselling and preparation of both the funeral itself and a Memorial Service for the community in the Chapel. The other one required grief therapy and counselling, because of the complexity of the situation.

Marriage preparation

As usual, there have been requests from members of the Concordia community, students and former students, to have their weddings in the chapel. David Eley and Matti Terho are principally occupied with these important events in the lives of the students. There are usually seven to ten meetings to prepare for these occasions. One can observe that the attachment created to the University through this activity is significant and probably life long. Twenty-two weddings were celebrated in the Loyola Chapel this year and several more were held at various locations off campus. With few exceptions, all marriages witnessed by Concordia Chaplains involve members of the Concordia University Community.

Loyola Chapel

The Loyola Chapel continues to be used for a variety of religious ceremonies and prayers. There are regular Sunday Catholic services, known throughout the diocese for creativity and openness, and also weekday masses. Occasional services from diverse denominations take place on an ad-hoc basis. Many weddings of members of the Concordia community, and alumni are celebrated there as well as a number of memorial services for the dead. It is also the venue for group meditation, and for a number of meetings, public lectures, recitals and concerts. The chapel is used principally for events of religious significance for the Concordia community but is also used from time to time for other University occasions.

Services are attended 52 Sundays of the year by, on average, 100 people. The special feasts of Christmas and Holy Week draw considerably larger attendance. During the week, five days a week for the academic year and two days a week for most of the summer, about 15-20 people come regularly to mass. Throughout the year the number of people at the occasional activities would be 150 - 300 at a wedding or a memorial service, diverse numbers for other gatherings.

Although Campus Ministry stresses the importance of maintaining the Chapel as sacred space, throughout the year it is used by individual students and student groups in response to special needs. Such occasions during the past year included several evenings of rehearsal by the University Choir under the direction of Elizabeth Haughey, several individual student projects by students in Visual Dynamics (photo studies or projects) and Film Making.

Outside groups have also used the Chapel on occasion for musical recording or filming sessions. Two such musical recordings occurred during the 1997-98 year. With rare exceptions the requesting person is usually an alum.

Chapel Council

There is an elected council of about twelve members which takes responsibility for the activities of the Loyola Chapel Community. Three of the chaplains, Daryl, David and Peter and the sacristan are ex officio members; the secretary is serving a term as an elected member. The council organizes a number of activities for the University such as an International Students Lunch, as a welcome to International Students. The finances of the Chapel and special projects are also the concern of this body. A series of regular meetings is held for these purposes.

Involvement in Orientation and Convocation

Orientation: Chaplains presided at the beginning of each Orientation main session with greetings and a ritual opening. This served to give us a certain amount of exposure to every student attending Orientation, not just a small group in a workshop. It is somewhat similar in nature to our role at Convocation and so highlights that important ceremonial aspect of our work. Over the four days of Orientation approximately 2000 students would have seen and heard us.

Convocation: The Convocation ceremonies are the central ritual event of the University. The role of the Chaplains in these ceremonies dates back to the beginnings of each of the founding institutions of Concordia. We bless each event at the beginning with an Invocation, and at the end with a Benediction. We are careful in our prayer to be inclusive and respectful of the variety of religious beliefs present at Concordia. Our presence at Convocation in this capacity is very valued by us. We believe in the importance and rightness of this spiritual dimension being included at this very significant point in the life of the University. We know that many students appreciate it, and are grateful for the opening invocation and the blessings given as the ceremony concludes. Each year several students request copies of the prayers which were said at their Convocation because they found it particularly moving and meaningful. In terms of our visibility and stature as a department which is integral to the University, the role we play in the Convocation ceremonies cannot be underestimated. It is one we cherish and want to affirm.

PUBLICATIONS

We published two volumes of a newsletter which we called "First Word." Our intention had been to include these in mailings of the "Bridge," the newsletter to new students. This proved to not be possible, so we distributed them by including them in issues of The Link, and through

Student Services and other means. We feel the effort and expense of producing a newsletter is time and money well-spent. Many students and staff and faculty were reached, and we received considerable positive feedback, as well as inquiries on topics which we had discussed in the newsletters. Last year we received some financial support for this project from the Office for New Student Programs. We understand they will not be funding such projects next year, so we will have to consider this in our decisions of format and number of issues.

THE PEER HELPER PROGRAM

Overview

This past year was an excellent one for Peer Helpers. The student volunteers worked very well together, the number of students who made use of the basic drop-in service as well as the various outreaches increased, everyone who entered the training completed the entire year commitment, some new initiatives were begun successfully and other initiatives have provided a good base of experience to do it better next year. This was the Peer Helper Program's seventh full year of operation. The program has become known and trusted among professional staff, and it appears more referrals are coming from student services to Peer Helpers than in earlier years.

Training

A Faculty member provided the majority of the training in helping skills, and various professional staff members animated workshops on topics such as time management, dealing with a crisis, poverty, sexuality, cross-cultural awareness, as well as providing information on the resources available to students at Concordia and in the larger community. The initial training at the beginning of the fall semester is over forty-five hours, with ongoing meetings every second Friday for discussion, feedback and additional training sessions.

Each Peer Helper has a mid-year evaluation meeting with the coordinator and one supervisor. This provides a structured opportunity for mutual exchange on the performance of the Peer Helper as well as his/her perceptions of the program. Peer Helpers give anonymous feedback on the performance of the coordinator and supervisors.

Coordinating Team

The Coordinating Team consists of the coordinator and four second-year Peer Helpers, or supervisors. These supervisors this year were very competent and responsible.

The Director of Advocacy and Support Services continues to be a resource, support, and a creative guide in the development of the program. Scheduled meetings, as well as unscheduled conversations serve to provide the Coordinator with very helpful feedback and perspective. Other professional staff from Counselling and Development, Health Services and the International Student Advisors' Office, as well as others, have been consulted during the year.

Operations

The Peer Helper Centre is located at 2090 Mackay (Annex Z) room 02. The front window looks almost directly across at the Mackay Street entrance to the Hall Building. We feel this is an ideal location, because of its proximity to the most heavily utilized building, while being very slightly more private than if it were right on the beaten path. The accessibility of the Campus Ministry professional staff to Peer Helpers, as well as the reception Peer Helpers provide in the building if a Chaplain is not available have been very positive aspects of situating these services together.

The Centre continues to be open on Monday to Thursday, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. During the exam period the Centre is open once or twice a week, depending upon the availability of the Peer Helpers. A campus outreach table to provide information and referrals is booked through the Dean of Students Office, and is situated in the lobby of the Hall Building. These are scheduled once or twice a week, for four or five hours, depending on the availability of the tables and of Peer Helpers to staff them on those days.

Although the Centre was closed during the ice storm, we still managed to have 560 office hours, with 231 client contacts. Almost as many briefer contacts were made at the Campus Outreach Table. Following the ice storm, Peer Helpers participated in the dissemination of information about services available to help students through the crisis.

Outreach Programs

Developments

Men of the Nineties: After visiting the Women's Centre on a tour during the training, two men spoke to me of the need they saw for men to have a place where they could share the issues and struggles in their lives. They carefully developed a rationale and goals, and the publicity, consulting with one of the faculty members from Applied Human Sciences. The group began in the late fall, and was small, about six regular participants, but very committed. The group continued to meet during the summer, and both men who facilitated the group are enthused about continuing the project next year.

Cooperative Cooking: After two years of attempting to get this started, in collaboration with The Unitarian Church of Montreal, a small group met for collective cooking in the very well-equipped kitchen of the Unitarian Church three times during the year. The feedback from the six to eight students involved was enthusiastically positive, but it was a very labour intensive project for Daryl, who was involved as Coordinator of the Peer Helper Program and supervisor of the Mother Hubbard's Cupboard project. A student who worked very diligently as a volunteer for Mother Hubbard's last year will be involved again as a Peer Helper this year, and will have gained experience forming cooperative cooking groups for the Centre for Native Education during the summer. We hope this project will grow based on these foundations.

Peer Connections: In cooperation with The Coordinator for New Student Programs, an effort was made to contact every new student by phone, beginning with those who did not attend Orientation. The project got bogged down in the beginning because it had been seen as important

to do some clerical processes which took quite a bit of time to complete. By the time these were done, some Peer Helpers were discouraged about the project. The series of questions which they were required to ask also made them feel the conversations were rather awkward. Nonetheless, they contacted over one thousand new students by phone. The problems encountered this year have been addressed in planning the project for next year. The process has been streamlined, and all the calls will be made in the late afternoon and early evening, by Peer Helpers who have opted to be involved in this outreach. New Student Programs will pay an hourly wage for this activity.

Outreach in the Women's Centre: One Peer Helper performed some of her weekly hours in the Women's Centre this year. We had tried this in order to provide a volunteer who was well-trained and who would be a good resource at the Centre. Unfortunately, the placement was not a "good fit," and the Peer Helper did not have the confidence to raise her difficulties with anyone at the Women's Centre or at Peer Helpers. The problems were addressed somewhat during the second semester. We have not decided if this outreach will continue. An evaluation meeting will be held during the summer.

Tutoring Learning Disabled Students: Two Peer Helpers worked with Services for Disabled Students to provide tutoring services to students with learning disabilities. One of the Peer Helpers worked with four students, and gave appropriate assistance and referrals. The other had a problem with the students he was supposed to be working with not keeping some of their appointments. Both Peer Helpers felt that more training focussing on how to assist learning disabled students would have been helpful to have before they began tutoring. This project will continue, and an evaluation meeting will take place during the summer.

Ongoing Projects

Gay and Bisexual Men's Discussion Group: This group is in its fifth year, and this past year was a very good one. There was a committed core group of about ten men, with the numbers sometimes going up to fifteen or more. A former student who has been involved for three years, and a Peer Helper facilitated. The corresponding women's group has been taken over by the Women's Centre.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard: Two Peer Helpers were involved in this project, and, as mentioned in the section on Services in Campus Ministry, this was a very successful year. A high proportion of Fine Arts and International Students came to the meals, which made for a very interesting and colourful environment.

OTHER CAMPUS MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Professional Development

Campus Ministry works within a professional environment, within standards set by the National Association, which groups Campus Ministers from all Canadian Universities by the National Offices of the Churches and inter-church and inter-faith committees, as well as being in close

connection with our counterparts in the United States. Further, there are a series of professional organizations with their conventions and regular publications. Concordia chaplains attend some of these meetings every year and make a regular and on-going part of their study and reflection the integration of the latest concerns, findings and practices into the work of Campus Ministry at Concordia University. Some of the time of our planning days and regular weekly meetings are dedicated to this learning and professional updating.

Throughout the year on a regular basis the whole Campus Ministry staff gathers for full day or half day team meetings. These times are used for a variety of forms of development. Some of the time is spent on evaluation and subsequent planning of activities. Attention is also given to a number of professional issues including articulating objectives and creating a mechanism for determining priorities. This is a necessary part of our work when we can deal with issues and cases that are brought to our attention through various avenues, including the National Association, some of our Church affiliations, and community organizations.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Micheline Bertone SSA: Diocesan Youth Council, the Montreal Association for Vocation Awareness, the Synod Spiritual Life Committee, Relais Mont Royal, sits on a committee for the animation of parish prayer groups, resident worker at Le Toit de Bethlehem, pastoral counsellor at the Montreal Pastoral Institute.

Peter Côté: Past President of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Community Services of Montreal, CUPEU Council member, attended National Chaplains' Conference in Halifax

David Eley: On the board of the Adult Religious Education Office for the Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal, participates in the monthly directors' meetings and on several sub-committees organizing specific events. Attended national Chaplains' Conference in Halifax, Call to Action Conference

Daryl Ross: Founding member of the N.D.G. Inter-Church Network for Justice, CUPEU Executive Committee, attended National Catholic Chaplain's Conference in Halifax, Call To Action Conference, Montreal Catholic Archdiocesan Synod - small group facilitator on Women in the Church

Matti Terho: Chair of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue in Montreal, secretary of the Lutheran Council in Montreal, member of the Board of Directors for the Canadian-Scandinavian Foundation, volunteer Christian Chaplain for traditional parade of World War II veterans in Cote St.Luc, temporary chair of the Canadian Sauna Society, co-sponsor for the Institute on Judaism at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, made a formal presentation titled "Jesus & Judaism" at McGill Chaplaincy, participated in a two day project to celebrate the Day to Combat Racism and Prejudice in Washington, DC

CONCLUSION

The goals which we set for ourselves in the beginning of the year were largely adhered to and fulfilled. All of the staff at Campus Ministry put in an especially intensive year of work because of the new projects and programs, and because of the response to the ice storm.

We ended the year with a real sense of satisfaction in the work we have accomplished, with a vision to build on these accomplishments. We also have concerns about coping with change, both within Campus Ministry and in the University as a whole. The changes which the entire University Community has been experiencing continues on, without abate. Some new developments, such as the Revitalization of Loyola, give hope that not all change involves loss.

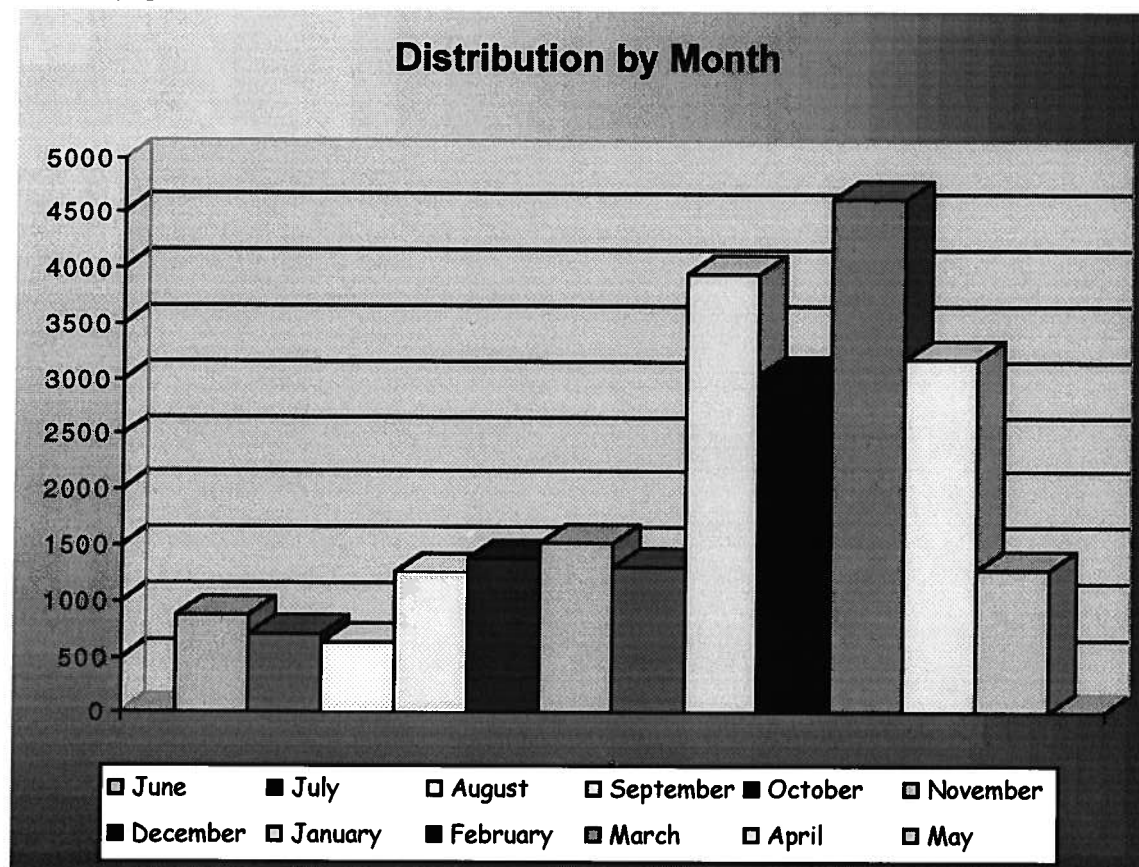
As we affirmed in last year's report, we believe it is essential that we, along with many others, affirm the values and qualities that make Concordia a unique and admirable academic community. The innate worth of each person, learning which is rooted in a sense of wonder and curiosity, openness to the diversity of human experience and expression, support for weaker and more vulnerable members, are all values out of which Concordia University has grown. Campus Ministry will continue to creatively respond to the spiritual and practical needs of community members, and add our vision and voice to those who seek to build Concordia on the best of what it has come from and has become. Within that future, we believe, faith, spirituality and ethical and moral development have an essential role. We look forward to this coming year with hope and enthusiasm.

APPENDIX A

EMERGENCY FOOD VOUCHER PROGRAMME

FOOD VOUCHER DISBURSEMENTS

	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Number of Visits</u>
1997	June	885.00	19
	July	720.00	16
	August	640.00	17
	September	1,260.00	33
	October	1,375.00	31
	November	1,530.00	41
	December	1,305.00	32
1998	January	3,965.00	76
	February	3,045.00	70
	March	4,630.00	117
	April	3,180.00	61
	May	1,290.00	26
	TOTAL VOUCHERS	<u>23,825.00</u>	
	<i>Total visits</i>		<u>539</u>
	<i>Average per visit</i>	44.20	



Support for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Monday Night Meals

(FROM THE EFV PROGRAMME)

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES:	306.75
VOUCHER SUPPORT FOR MEALS	<u>370.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>676.75</u>